

REMARKS

Entry of this Amendment, reconsideration and withdrawal of all grounds of rejection in the final Office Action, and allowance of all the pending claims are respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claims 1-11, as shown above, remain ending herein. Claim 12 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 13 and 14 have been added, support for which is clearly found in the specification at least at page 8, lines 10-12, and page 11, lines 15-17.

(1) Claim 12 has been canceled without prejudice, rendering the rejection thereto (under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph) moot.

(2) Claims 1-3 and 7-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Bahl et al. (EP 0 788 090, hereafter "Bahl"). Applicants respectfully traverse this ground of rejection.

Applicants respectfully submit that base claim 1 has been amended to recite, *inter alia*:

wherein SNR-incremental stochastic matching (SISM) is selected if the estimation is of the signal-to-noise ratio, and Bandwidth-incremental stochastic matching (BISM) is selected if the estimation is of the bandwidth;

estimating an originally uttered speech signal based on the received input signal;
and

processing the estimated original signal using the selected model, and wherein the processing includes varying the processing model by the function of the estimated signal condition.

Support for the above changes can be found at least at page 10, lines 20-30 of the specification. Similar changes were made to base claim 9 with regard to the variance of the model by the function of the estimated signal condition.

Applicants respectfully submit that Bahl fails to disclose or suggest at least the features added to base claims 1 and 9. Bahl discloses categorizing a series of different classes of speech, such as clean speech, speech corrupted by noise, non-speech, telephone speech, transcribes each category by a system made especially for it, and then utilizes a segmentation algorithm followed by a programming algorithm to identify segments belonging to each class. In other words, the current model is transformed to a new one, wherein the transformation is a function of the input signal. Bahl discloses at column 3, lines 50-55 that the “input speech is converted into a stream of feature vectors, S_1 to S_T , and the objective is to assign each feature vector to one of the classes mentioned earlier.”

Bahl also discloses at column 7, lines 14-31, (in his discussion of Fig. 5) that the input speech is divided into segments classified as one of the foregoing types of input data, then processed by a machine made specifically for that particular class.

In contrast, the presently claimed invention does not segment the speech into separate groups for separate processing.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that for at least the above reasons, none of the instant claims are anticipated by Bahl. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this ground of rejection are respectfully requested.

(3) Claims 4-6 and 10-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Bahl as applied to claims 1-3 and 7-9 above and further in view of Vikram Krishnamurthy et al. (“Online estimation of Hidden Markov Model Parameters based on the Kull back-Leibler

Information Measure”, hereafter referred to as “Krishnamurthy”). Applicants respectfully traverse this ground of rejection. Applicants respectfully stand on the believed patentability of the base claims to overcome the combination rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). While the dependent claims have an independent basis for patentability, it is respectfully submitted that they are patentable at least for their dependency on claims 1 or 9. The combination of Bahl and Krishnamurthy fails to disclose, suggest, or motivate the artisan such that any of the instant claims would have been obvious to the artisan at the time of invention.

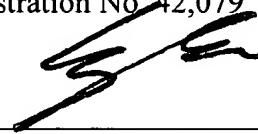
Reconsideration and withdrawal of this ground of rejection are respectfully requested.

For all the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all the present claims are patentable in view of the cited references. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner deem that there are any issues that may be best resolved via telephone, please contact the Applicant's Attorney at the telephone number listed herein below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: December 24, 2003

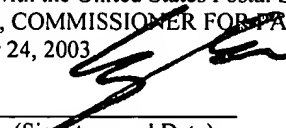
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12/24/03